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SNOW SURVEYS AND IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS

FOR

RIO GRANDE BASIN

March 1, 1937

The following data pertaining to snow surveys and irrigation water-supply forecasts are provided by Bureau of Agricultural Engineering of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with State Departments, other Federal bureaus and local organizations. 1/

The status of precipitation from October 1 to March 1: Records of fourteen precipitation stations, 6000 feet or more in elevation in Colorado and New Mexico, show precipitation somewhat more than normal. The February precipitation at these stations in Colorado and along the Rio Grande in New Mexico was 200 percent of normal.

The snow cover in the mountains on the west side of the San Luis Valley is heavy and extends to lower elevations than usual, but precipitation in the irrigated section of the Valley has been light. At Cumbres Pass, at the south end of the Valley, 296 inches of snow have fallen this season. In northern New Mexico the snow cover in the mountains is also heavy.

Reservoir storage in the upper Rio Grande Basin is below normal. The moisture content of the soil is good in this area.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

Summary of Federal and State Cooperative Snow Surveys
Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, U. S. Dept. Agr.; Forest Service; Colo. Agri. Expt. Station
Issued Mar. 15, 1937. Colo. Expt. Station, Fort Collins, Colo.

Tributary Basins (Primary and Secondary and Snow Courses)	Location				Elev. (Feet)	March 1, Snow Course Measurements			
						Avg. Snow Depth		Avg. Water Depth	
	State	Sec.	Twp.	Range		1937 (Inches)	1936 (Inches)	1937 (Inches)	1936 (Inches)
RIO GRANDE									
Wolf Creek Pass	Colo.	4	37N	2E	10,000	98.7	—	31.4	--
Upper Rio Grande	"	13	40N	4W	9,350	30.7	--	6.9	--
Cumbres Pass 2/	"	17	32N	5E	10,000	77.3	--	28.9	--
LaVeta Pass 2/	"	23	28S	70W	10,500	25.5	--	5.7	--
Silver Lakes	"	15	36N	5E	9,600	26.4	--	5.5	--
River Springs	"	25	33N	6E	9,300	37.4	--	10.4	--
Red River	New Mex.	29	28N	15E	9,500	--	--	--	--
Taos Canon	"	10	25N	15E	9,000	26.9	--	7.4	--
Hematite Park 2/	"	8	28N	15E	9,500	22.3	--	7.0	--
Holman Hill	"	10	22N	14E	9,400	4.5	--	1.0	--
Aspen Grove	"	12	18N	10E	9,100	18.8	--	4.4	--
Lee Ranch	"	3	18N	4E	9,050	29.2	--	6.6	--
Canjilon	"	4	26N	6E	9,500	--	--	--	--
Rio Nutrias	"	6	27N	5E	7,900	20.9	--	6.3	--
Panchulela Creek	"	34	19N	12E	8,500	9.0	--	3.1	--
CANADIAN									
Hematite Park	New Mex.	8	28N	15E	9,500	22.3	--	7.0	--
Ocate Mesa	"	25	24N	16E	9,200	--	--	--	--

New Mexico Courses established fall 1936.

1/The snow measurements are made principally by field personnel of the U. S. Forest Service and Colorado State Engineer. This work is otherwise conducted cooperatively with the State Engineers of Colorado and New Mexico, U. S. Weather Bureau, and Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station, and various municipalities, irrigation associations and others.

2/In adjacent drainage.

(4270-37)